

'Wild' summer in store for teen readers

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Nothing says summer better than reading a good book at the beach, and Young Adults Librarian Ellen Snoeyenbos is making sure teenagers have all the materials they need to continue their reading throughout the summer.

Every year the library organizes a summer reading program where they encourage youths to read through fun contests, activities, and good book selections. The program not only encourages the

younger population to get excited about reading, the library also chooses a different charity each year for the program to raise money for. Snoeyenbos said it is similar to a walk-a-thon, where this is a read-a-thon and the participants are encouraged to get donations based on reading pledges.

This year money collected through donations will go to the World Wildlife Fund. At the end of the summer the children will choose which endangered animal they want to save.

"We thought it would be fun to do something on the wild side," she said. "We did domestic animals last year with the Heifer Foundation, and we wanted to stick with animals, we decided to do wild animals."

The National Teen Summer Library them is "Metamorphosis." Snoeyenbos encouraged a group of eager middle school teens to "change yourself by becoming a really good reader," by reiterating a quote from Gandhi, "be the change you wish to see in the world."

Snoeyenbos spends about a week at the end of each school year presenting a list of suggested summer reads, as well as the community read book, to the middle and high school classes. Aside from talking about the summer reading program, she introduces the students to a variety of books from adventure and science fiction, to sports and teen angst.

"The discussion is really worth it," she said. "I find a little book talking can make a huge difference with what they're reading."

"The City of Ember," by Jeanne

DuPrau, this summer's community read book, is a mandatory reading assignment for all middle and high school students. The community summer read book aims at bringing the community together in reading.

Snoeyenbos said that studies have shown people who read for pleasure are better at their studies, test taking and find class work and homework easier.

"The summer reading program is slightly different because it encourages you to get in the habit of reading for pleasure for life,"

she told the students.

Having a book that someone is dying to read as the last thing they do before bed is a great way to get into reading.

"Reading in bed is one of the great pleasures of the world," she said.

Part of the reading program includes the Reading raffle, where students who sign up can track the amount of books read over the summer. For each book read, a raffle ticket will be issued into a drawing picked at the end of August. The winners will receive prizes of gift certificates to area bookstores and movie theaters, and cash prizes as well. Snoeyenbos said the more books a student reads, the more raffle tickets they add, the better chances they have to win. And for every five books read, an additional raffle ticket will be added.

Over the summer, Snoeyenbos will also be holding several teen programs including a float in the 4th of July Parade, teen book discussion group every Wednesday at 2 p.m., movie and book events, and fourth edition of the "Twilight" series, "Breaking Dawn," midnight book release at Westwinds Bookstore on Friday, Aug. 1.

For a complete list of summer program events and suggested summer reading lists visit www.duxburyfreelibrary.org.